

**REMARKS**

This Amendment is filed in response to the Final Office action mailed on May 5, 2004, and with Request for Continuing Examination (RCE) filed on date herewith. All objections and rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-21 are in the case.

At paragraph 3 of the Office Action claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nguyen et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,961,628 issued October 15, 1999 (hereinafter Nguyen).

The present invention, as set out in representative claim 1, comprises in part:

1. A method for processing a first memory request issued by a requestor and directed to a location in a memory, the first memory request containing an address corresponding to the memory location, the method comprising the steps of:
  - (A) associating the first memory request with a request identifier;
  - (B) selecting a memory device containing the memory location corresponding to the address;
  - (C) issuing a second memory request without the request identifier to the memory device to access information stored at the location;***
  - (D) receiving the information from the memory device; and***
  - (E) associating the information with the request identifier.***

By way of background, Nguyen describes a load and store unit for a vector processor. Nguyen uses a transaction ID tag for indicating a first memory request to the

load/store unit by the memory system. Nguyen then issues a second memory request, and the second memory request contains a second transaction ID.

On the other hand, Applicant's invention does, as does Nguyen, issue a first memory request with a transaction ID. Then, in sharp contrast, Applicant issues a second memory request *without* a request identifier. Then Applicant receives a response to the second memory request from the memory system, and ***(E) associating the information with the request identifier***. The advantage of using no request identifier in the second memory request is that many memory devices do not support a request identifier (See present specification page 2 line 29 to page 3 line 4). Accordingly, one of the many memory devices that do not support a transaction identifier cannot work with the Nguyen design or disclosure.

Applicant respectfully urges that the Nguyen patent is legally precluded from anticipating the claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. § 102 because of the absence from the Nguyen patent of Applicant's ***“(C) issuing a second memory request without the request identifier to the memory device to access information stored at the location; (D) receiving the information from the memory device; and (E) associating the information with the request identifier.”***

At paragraph 5 of the office action claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable in view of Nguyen and knowledge in the art for computer readable medium.

As claim 20, is an independent claim based on the method steps of 1, 3, 4, or 5, the claim should be allowable based on the reason that applicant's invention issues a second memory request *without* a request identifier.

At paragraph 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that Nguyen describes a "second memory request without the request identifier to the memory device as being equivalent to the second requesting device issue a second vector without the request identifier at this particular step."

Nguyen in the next step describes using a second transaction ID for a second memory request. Whereas, Applicant's invention does not use a second transaction ID. Applicant's invention allows use with memory devices that do not support a transaction ID where those devices will not work with Nguyen's design.

All independent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

All dependent claims are believed to be dependent from allowable independent claims, and therefore in condition for allowance.

Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. Sidney Johnston", written over a horizontal line.

A. Sidney Johnston  
Reg. No. 29 548  
CESARI AND MCKENNA, LLP  
88 Black Falcon Avenue  
Boston, MA 02210-2414  
(617) 951-2500